

Nick has always been involved with sports. He was on Cal Ripken baseball teams when he was younger, on school baseball teams as well. He also was on a club soccer team for 2 years in his teens. It wasn't until he was 15, his Grandma gave him tickets to see the Coyotes and he fell in love with hockey. Sometimes having Autism can work to a benefit. Nick totally delved in head first collecting all the hockey gear he could (even though he'd yet to be on the ice). He bought pucks and hockey sticks and taught himself how to shoot in the backyard. It is not an underestimation to say that there were days he'd spend 6 hours per day perfecting his shot. He would watch videos and talk to people who played to get a feel of what he should do. At this time he had befriended a very strong role model in his life, Randy Exelby, owner of Behind the Mask.

He finally got on the ice and taught himself to skate. He posted You Tube videos of him skating so people could give him tips on how he could be a better skater. Being 6'7 I think was a bit of a challenge but he finally got there. Nick attends One Step Beyond. A day program for adults with developmental disabilities. During the Summer of 2016 he found out they were putting together an Ice Hockey team. Arizona's first and only one. The One Step Bobcats. He jumped on board and never looked back. Nick was honored to receive the Captain's jersey just 3 practices into their first season.

In his spare time, other than his One Step Bobcats team, he is a season ticket holder for the Arizona Coyotes. He has attended 240 consecutive home games. He hasn't missed a home game since December 2011. Nick also is on Team Arizona's Unified Softball team which will represent Arizona in the 2018 USA Games in Seattle, Washington in July. Nick has also been a certified soccer referee since he was 16 years.

Nick is involved with the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and has a special relationship with the Buckeye Police Department.

Nick currently is a student at Glendale Community College working towards his AA one class per semester. His focus is on Video Production Technology. He currently holds a 3.2 GPA.

By Nora
(Nick's mom)

